

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for facilitating making of a connection between an upper tubular and a lower tubular, comprising:

a top drive having a tubular engagement tool capable of torsionally gripping the upper tubular; and

a suspension unit operatively connected to the top drive, the suspension unit accommodating configured for compensating the tubular engagement tool in order to compensate for movement of the upper tubular.

14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the suspension unit includes at least one piston and cylinder to raise and lower the upper tubular.

15. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the suspension unit can be pneumatically fluidly actuated to compensate for the weight of the tubular.

16. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the suspension unit enables movement of the upper tubular in at least two planes.

17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the suspension unit enables movement of the upper tubular in an axial direction with respect to the tubulars to compensate for movement of the upper tubular during making of the connection.

18. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the suspension unit comprises spherical bearings.

19. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising a mud pipe for delivering mud to the tubulars.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) A method of facilitating making of a connection between an upper tubular and a lower tubular, comprising:

engaging the upper tubular with a tubular engagement tool of a top drive having a suspension unit;

engaging a lower end of the upper tubular with an upper end of the lower tubular;

rotating the upper tubular via the tubular engagement tool, thereby threading the tubulars to form the connection;

torquing the connection via the tubular engagement tool; and

compensating for movement of the upper tubular with the suspension unit during the threading.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising adjusting the suspension unit to move the upper tubular in at least two planes.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein compensating for movement of the upper tubular comprises pneumatically compensating via at least one piston and cylinder arrangement.

24. (Currently Amended) A method of facilitating making of a connection between an upper tubular and a lower tubular, comprising:

engaging the upper tubular with a tubular engagement tool of a top drive having a suspension unit;

compensating for weight of the upper tubular to accommodate movement of the upper tubular while engaged by the tubular engagement tool; and

engaging a lower end of the upper tubular with an upper end of the lower tubular to form the connection therebetween; and

delivering torque to the upper tubular via the tubular engagement tool.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein engaging the lower end of the upper tubular with the upper end of the lower tubular includes rotating the upper tubular, thereby threading the tubulars together.
26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, further comprising compensating for movement of the upper tubular with the suspension unit during the threading.
27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, further comprising adjusting the suspension unit to move the upper tubular in at least two planes.
28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein compensating for weight of the upper tubular comprises compensating via at least one piston and cylinder arrangement.
29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein compensating for weight of the upper tubular is pneumatic.
30. (New) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the tubular engagement tool includes at least one gripping element displaceable in a radial direction for engagement with a wall of the upper tubular.